

SESSION OF 2022

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2715

As Amended by House Committee on Federal
and State Affairs

Brief*

HB 2715, as amended, would create law related to required training of county election officials and amend elections law concerning reporting of election results.

Required Training

The bill would require the Secretary of State (Secretary) and the Kansas County Clerks and Election Officials Association (KCCEOA) to create an ongoing training and certification program for county election officials related to conducting elections. The bill would require each county to have its chief or deputy election official trained and certified.

The bill would require renewal of such certifications at intervals determined by the Secretary and KCCEOA, and certification would be required for all newly elected or appointed chief and deputy election officials. The certification program would be conducted with current election training programs or as an online course.

The provisions of the bill would apply to all counties for elections taking place after July 1, 2024.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

Elections Results

The bill would also require each county election officer to provide precinct-level election results electronically in machine-readable format for all federal offices, statewide offices, legislative offices, and local offices not later than 30 days after the final canvass of general election results.

Background

The bill was introduced by the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Howell.

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

In the House Committee hearing, Representative Howell provided **proponent** testimony, stating that the bill provides a formalized state training and certification program.

A representative of the Secretary provided neutral testimony. A representative of the KCCEOA provided written-only neutral testimony.

No **opponent** testimony was provided.

The House Committee amended the bill to clarify that certification could consist of an online course, to specify when bill provisions would take effect, and to incorporate provisions of HB 2565 to require officials to provide electronic machine-readable election results.

HB 2565 (Providing Electronic Election Results)

The bill was introduced by the Committee on Federal and State Affairs at the request of Representative Howell.

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a Sedgwick County Commissioner, who stated the requirement would ensure data are available in a usable format. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by a private citizen.

A representative of the Secretary provided neutral testimony. No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Information

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on the bill as introduced, the Secretary indicates there would be no additional employee time or expenditures due to enactment of the bill, as the Secretary has already developed and implemented such a training program.

The Kansas Association of Counties states that county election costs could increase due to the additional duties required for administering the certification, but a precise fiscal effect could not be determined.

HB 2565 (Providing Electronic Election Results)

According to the fiscal note prepared by the Division of the Budget on HB 2565, the Office of the Secretary of State indicates it is unclear whether the provisions would cause local election offices to upgrade current voting systems to meet the requirements. The Kansas Association of Counties indicates enactment of these provisions could increase training costs for county election offices, but the amount would vary by county, depending on the number of personnel involved.

Elections; county election official; training; certification; election results